

Editorial

(Continued from page one.)

the consequences of his crimes. Thousands of wage earners are impoverished by reason of his speculations. Little children may cry themselves in hunger to sleep, and yet the very creed to which he subscribed gave a license to his thefts, for he had learned that crime will be forgiven if repentance cometh at the eleventh hour and the blood of Christ can atone for it all.

If The Blade had the means it would open an institute for the inculcation of morals among the clergy and church workers and take such brazen hypocrites under the shelter of its wing. Seven millions! Think of it! What could he have done with the money? Think of the number of widows and orphans he has robbed and then, we are told, the funds of his church which he had care of, are safe. With but a small loss the church will get its deposits intact. This information is given out with a view to softening public criticism. Such is the estimate of one who made Presbyterianism a synonym for plunder.

NATURE WORSHIP VS. GOD WORSHIP.

The remarkable question has been asked by an overzealous advocate of Christianity, "What has nature worship ever done for the moral uplifting of man?" but the rationalist might well ask in return, "What has God worship ever done to enoble man and to enrich human life?"

Admitting that the asking of one question does not answer the other, a proceeding which has been characterized as a Yankee dodge, yet here, my brother, are the issues drawn before us, and from them we may glean a ray of light, of hope and expectation, and it is for you to make choice as you will between them.

What has nature worship done? The answer is everything. What has God worship done? The answer is that which should not have been done and which would have been better left undone. The one uplifts, enriches and enlarges the mind, broadens the horizon of thought and leads to nobler and loftier ideals. The other degrades and debases the human intellect by making it inferior to that which is imaginary and unreal. The one holds man to himself, not permitting him to depart therefrom, giving him strength and courage, through life. The other makes them a coward and a hypocrite, whining and pining his life away for that which he can never attain. The worshiper of Nature loves the good, the beautiful, the true. The God worshiper prostrates himself in the dust before an idol which he can only picture in the image of himself. The worshiper of Nature aspires to goodness for the inherent beauty he perceives therein and the virtue that follows in its wake. The worshiper of God keeps an eye to personal gain and lives only in the expectation of a handsome dividend upon his celestial investment. The worshipers of Nature have ever been filled with an all-absorbing love for the race, founded on equity and justice. The worshipers of God have ever been sacred marauders who have felled the silvery head of old age with a sword wielded in his name and ripped open the wombs of women with children to add to his great glory.

It is not necessary for a man to have or profess to have religion in order to be good, while the God of any people, race or nation, must of necessity be a reflection of themselves, an idealization of their own virtues and vices, or, in other words, a magic mirror in which Narcissus-like, man worships but his own image. There is not a Christian nation on earth that did not voluntarily engage in the Jesse James business and pretend they were doing it for God's great glory. Their chief claim was that the plan pursued was under his guidance and at his direction, and they were eminently successful in their chosen profession. The entire Christian world seems to have adopted a divinity that is devoid of mercy and an absolute stranger to justice.

If, as Pope declares, the proper study of mankind is man, then the worship that man has to bestow should be bestowed upon man. When men will learn to honor and esteem each other more, when the sordid selfishness of the Christian ages is dead and buried, they will no longer strive to make a heaven for themselves and a hell for other people, for be it known man never built a hell for his own habitat, but always for the other fellow. From this we get a forcible illustration of that ancient axiom that it makes a great difference whose ex is being gored. Only for the different minds and muddy morals of the God worshipers the emancipation of man from a condition of mental slavery would not have been thus long deferred. Man needs and demands the help of his fellow man. God can get along very well without either.

Does man want worship? Then turn to yon setting sun. Watch that great orb as it sinks behind the western hills in a sea of molten gold as if to cast its burning kisses upon the clouds that hover near it. The scene is one that is capable of greater impressive grandeur than taught that can be derived from God worship. Does man need something to grasp? Then take up yon flowery whose tints no artists' brush can imitate and whose sensuous perfume brings sweet delight to the heart. Does man need to give praise? Then watch yon toiler as he treads the fresh made furrows and with brawny arm and strong he brings forth an abundant harvest that our days on earth may be blessed. Does man look for happiness? Then find it at the fireside where little children grow in the lambent light of a mother's love. More real worship may be found in the directions herein pointed out than by the creation of inconsequential theorems of sacerdotalism which only add to the world's discord by the founding of a supposed new faith. Nature is impartial and acts upon all like without distinction or discrimination. God is both partial and revengeful for those he cannot bribe with the pre-

tended fruits of heaven he tries to bluff with the fires of hell.

It is in spite of God and not because of him that the great world spins on forever bringing the night and the morning, the seedtime and the harvest. Then let the gods go as mere fictions of man's mental babyhood and let,

Man to man a brother be,
And strife shall be forgot;
Then crowns and creeds shall pass away,
And kings and priests are not.

APOLOGY NOT NECESSARY

Just why Theodore the Great, should deem it necessary to issue an explanatory or supplementary letter on his great effort to give some of the overworked vowels and consonants in the English language a rest, he, himself only knows. Having issued his original ukase one had the right to expect that the President would "stand pat" on it, as he did in the Panama affair, and not weaken the reverence felt for his high personality by seeming to apologize for any act prompted by his own great genius.

The English language would, doubtless feel grateful to Roosevelt if he could trim off the Anglican superfluities of some three thousand words. And, then, why should not the President of the American Republic be privileged to wage war on the language of Shakespeare and Milton, of Byron and Burns, if the good of the public service demands it? He might begin by requesting potential and prospective correspondents to address him, henceforth, at "Yster Ba," and save ink, paper and labor. Sure enough there are numerous words the spelling of which might be changed with profit, but there is a justifiable curiosity as to how Theodore will spell "NO" two years from now when the Republican convention gets busy with his name, and that spelling it that it is understood, how he will spell the name of his successor.

If, in England, a horse is a "oss" and a dog made into a "dawg" there is no reason for the President making any apology for engaging in a campaign of reform.

In his advocacy of Free love, Hermann Wettstein falls into the beautiful illusionary deductions of glittering theories, mistaking shadow for substance. No matter what system or rule may be applied to our sex relationship, marriage is now, and will continue for years to come, to be the only game of chance in which it is impossible for both sides to play a losing game. The doctrine is beautiful, but it is also impracticable.

The Christian hierarchy in America is a conspiracy against liberty and the enemy of reason. It would suppress the pen and seal the lips of those who dare to oppose it, provided it had the power. Every member of that concentrated ecclesiasticism is a potential Benedict Arnold, a political Judas Iscariot. This republic was the temple of our Fathers, and while the Blade declines to advocate violence, still, no real harm would be done were whips of cords made and used to drive the damnable conspirators from our shores, or impel good behavior.

Morality is largely a matter of definition, but in many instances, it cannot be made a synonym for decency. What is regarded as moral in one country may be the height of immorality in another. Different nations live by different standards. Even Anthony Comstock may consider himself the nicest person in New York, but the majority of American sovereigns look upon him as the nastiest. Only a few days ago, it took a Yale professor two hours and several thousand words to inform Comstock that the worst enemy of that decency he so industriously defends and professes to suppress, is Comstock himself. It is no trouble to prove that.

The world will blossom as a bright garden spot, if each will but do his or her part and that part must be done today. You have done all you can do for the yesterday and the yesterday has done all it can ever do for you. The best investment an individual can make is the one that pays a dividend now, and you have brought heaven to your feet. Each human life is a meed of labor and rest, of responsibility and joy. The unit may not be able to cure each evil that afflicts society, but the one can help and when many help, the cure is speedily wrought. If we would get the best there is in life we must put the best we have into it.

"They might have spared my children" was the piteous plea of the Russian official, whose family was annihilated by the recent explosion of a bomb from the effects of which he alone escaped. The cry came too late. It may fall on pitying ears in some sections of the world, but the hundreds of orphans that land upon American shores from that land of political and religious tyranny, whose sires and dams have fallen victims to a brutal governmental system, have passed through worse experiences. But this is the other side of the question which has been brought to us with such mournful repetition that we had almost forgotten it until the wail of a childless Russian General recalled the sad facts to mind.

By the labor of man alone, unaided by gods or ghosts, has this wonderful era of human progress been inaugurated. In spite of religious protests, man has made the mighty forces of Nature his obedient bondslaves. Man has built societies, and nations, constructed governments, measured the distances of the stars, mapped out the sweep of their mighty orbits and weighed their ponderous masses in the balance. Man has acquired not only knowledge and power, but love and natural modesty. One by one man has built within himself the attributes which religion gave to god. Step by step man extends further into the realm of the unknown and as he brings it within the realm of the known god grows less and less until he must perish and fade away.

THE BLADE'S LETTER BOX

Where Ignorance Is Bliss.

Wanchula, Fla.—Enclosed find money order for \$1.00 to move up my subscription another year. I like the Blue Grass Blade fully as well, if not better than when the old editor was at the helm. While this will make you feel better than if I was stopping my subscription, you would still feel much better if I could send you some new subscribers. This I would be as proud to do as you to receive them. But I have been unable to do anything so far. Not even men who have thrown down in a way the church will subscribe, and some who claim to be Freethinkers hold aloof from our literature and organizations. I have had a fight here and am still in the fray with our church folks and trying to get those who have dropped the church to look up and read. I am socially ostracized as much as I can be, and would be entirely so if I permitted it. Possibly my method is partly the cause of such strong opposition, but I think the chief cause is ignorance as dense as Egyptian darkness. But I am up against it to stay, and I mean to open up somewhere, somehow the light of freedom to our folks here.

I appreciate the great sacrifice you are now making and have made, also that of your predecessor. To you two and my old friend, D. W. Arline, who is dead, I owe very much, and I shall ever be ready to give you a helping hand when I can. But the way looks gloomy now. I once sent a club from here paying the subscriptions and every fellow had me stop when or before it expired. Since I have been unable to do anything with anyone except Dr. Y. E. Wright. He is a true man and assists me in every way he can. There is more holy spooking here in proportion to population than in any place I know. Ignorance is bliss here, to be sure.

As to organizing Freethinkers into a working body, I hope it can be done, for it is a shame, one much thrown in my face that we are nothing as to numbers and organization, smart, but nobody—with us. If the preacher crowd of the church were by themselves it would be small. This is the exact condition of the infidel—none are called infidels but those who preach it in season and out. These are the people who keep up the freethought papers and they are few, so few that that it is a burden to do better than what is done, hence our editors are like a church paper editor—always thing and begging for better support. I know their hearts almost melt in them when they make such sacrifices as they must and receive so little appreciation. If nature had not have given you all the constitution and appetite of a "billie boat" so as to live on printer's ink and paper, surely we would have no free thought papers.

If I judge aright from our past history, unless we can organize the masses of our people, we will again repeat the fate of the Secular Union and Free Thought Federation and the Liberal Party. The men and women who did compose these organizations can be organized easily. A letter and the declaration of right and purposes will bring the membership and fees. But nothing like progress will be accomplished. Some plan to bring in the masses who do not now belong the church must be adopted or we must meet our usual fate. I do not mean that no good will come of it, but that we cannot attain the success that we deserve and will get, if we can hit a plan that will bring in the common folks.

I have two ideas, given as suggestions for whatever they are worth. First, divide the country (United States) into districts large enough, that it, liberals enough who are interested, to maintain a lecturer, or organize these liberals and have the lecturer work as a missionary, forming clubs wherever he can, and lecturing in public halls on Mr. Ingersoll's plan. If we cannot maintain but one in the United States, let's have him—a good one, who can entertain the people and invite them to join the liberal club in which some local man can entertain in their meetings and give out literature. You must recognize, my brother, that infidelity is a religion, pure and simple, but much purer and simpler than the Christian superstition. Hence no method but the religious methods of today will count. For the men of genius who have belonged to and still belong to the Christian cult have reduced religious methods to a science and while they can learn much from us about truth, right, liberty and science, we, too, can learn from them something of method.

One brother suggested Sunday schools. This is excellent, but we must first get grown-ups before we can get at the youths. This is my second idea. For you know, one denomination of church folks will not

patronize the other's Sunday schools. We can save our own, but we must get the other into the club or society before we can get at his children.

You now have my opinion of organization. It will take lots of money and time to build, just as the churches have taken much. They will fall before this kind of organization once it is started, the reason for which you know. In fact, it seems to me that we are now duty bound to provide a system to take the place of the one we, in evolution, have destroyed.

So then let's to it.

Yours truly,

G. W. HARP.

An Interesting Letter.

Dennison, Ohio.—Do you still send five Postal Card subscriptions for \$2.50, if so send me five and I will remit. A young man by the name of McClain, a locomotive fireman of Wheeling, W. Va., gave me 50 cents a few days ago to put him in a Blue Grass Blade Club and the next trip he fell from a trestle 40 feet high, but he is not dead by a long shot and his engineer told me last night, that the said fireman is a real thinker and of the right sort.

Brother Hughes please look over the list I sent you June and see if all are having papers sent as some are not getting same. The Rome book is a gem and Paor and Chaney also H. H. Kall of this place say the same thing or better. My wife who is a member of the Buckeye Secular Union, had her left frontal bone fractured 10 days ago, and at 2 o'clock, this a. m. underwent a critical operation, a large clot of blood was removed and the pressure on the brain removed thereby, which gave her relief and she is at noon today doing nicely and without the aid of prayer. That credulous innocent who says "Jesus will settle the bill," should read your editorial in same issue which tells a few relations to his dear little gentle Jesus, who made his mud pies and snakes, same as other kids, only his snakes and birds could be classed in the organic field as they could grunt etc. He says old "Wash" and "Bonnie" were like Jesus but we could believe the former and not the latter lived. History tells of "Wash" and "Bonny" but search me if he or any one else can spot the history that tells of Jesus or John the Baptist, or killing the innocent or of Judas bursting his boiler or rubbering so hard as to break his neck or in fact any of the stories in the book at the tail end of the job, where it states a few stars fell on the earth and in the sea, wonder if he had time on the farm to read a line or two in astronomy, to see if a few stars could land on land or sea and not jar his footing. No wonder he is a little looney, praying two long years. Many as good a man has landed in the lunatic asylum in much less time than that, note that 90 per cent. of the inmates of said institutions are the crop gathered from the harvest of converted sinners—poor sinners, I am sure we should feel for them, coz Jesus does—"Could you doubt his love?" Well I should say not. Even if millions of his clan has perished at the stake, etc.

Say Brother Hughes the Buckeye Secular Union meets in Marietta on Sunday, September 9, could you run up there and tell us a story like you write in your editorials. I'd like to hear you tell of the "soul."

How about the Guy, "Morse" of Weekline, Mass., who asks the question if the earth is turning around as per copernicus and Newton, "Where is heaven?" He says all scientists are mistaken and further asks, where was the earth before the sun and moon were created, as they were created after the earth for the bible says so. See! as ever, then.—GEO. O. ROBERTS.

For Missionary Work.

Lockport, N. J.—I would like you to send me ten cents worth of the Blades of July 29th your article on the birth of Christ is so good that I think I can do some missionary work with it. Also move my tab up to August 1907, for enclosed dollar. I want to say beside, that as much as I liked C. C. Moore as editor, your Blade far surpasses his best efforts. Now I wish you would tell us how often Archelaus was deposed his kingdom abolished and added to the Roman province of Syria, did the Herods get back into the throne, I fail to find it in my history. I have been much aroused in following out Matthews and Lukes job of building a Jesus Matthew begins with David begot Solomon and follows the begotten through till he comes to Jacob, who begot Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom was born Jesus, who is called Christ. Now comes Luke's turn at the bat, and he hits it hard, he begins with David who begot Nathan and he goes through with the begotten, and has Heli the begotten of Joseph the husband of Mary. Each has a different man as the father of Joseph Now if God inspired both men why did he not make them agree. It looks to me as if Matthew and Luke each made a little Jesus to suit themselves. I see it took 14 generations more for Luke to get a Jesus, than it did for

Matthew. I wish Mr. Hughes you would make this more plain so the mistake would not look so naked. Matthew or Luke or somebody has slipped a cog; it seems both men depended on God for inspiration, but maybe God was out to a roof garden show the night before and was a little mixed, but you take the matter in hand Mr. Hughes and straighten it out for we poor benighted sinners. Concerning organization there are too many who want to sit in the high places and wield the scepter of power, for one thing, and too many of your Blade readers are Spiritualists and they will not join hands with any organization that aims to root them of the hope, of the continuity of life and the return of spirit. They read and like the Blade because of its great and persistent effort to destroy in the minds of the people, the superstitions about the Bible being the word of God. It comes hard for me to raise the money for the Blade, but I feel that I cannot do without it, my wife has not spoken a word as moved a hand or foot for ten months, as helpless as a babe and I am taking care of her and doing all the house work, besides and I will be 60 years old August 8th, so cannot earn anything. My Christian neighbors say God is punishing me for my unbelief through striking my wife. Think of it, you Freethinkers, think freely, loud enough for us to read your thoughts in the Blade.—J. J. SWABE.

INGERSOLL MEMORIAL AND PICNIC

Open-air Gathering of Freethinkers in Iowa Which Was Well Attended.

(BY MYRA P. WELLER.)

In beautiful commemoration of that great apostle of human liberty, the late Robert G. Ingersoll, about one hundred Freethinkers or more gathered in Moffitt's Grove, three miles west of Newton, Iowa, on Sunday, August 19, and with music, songs, recitations and speeches regaled themselves with the nobility that underlies the cause we advocate. It was a beautiful day. The weather was simply glorious and every one present found plenty of happiness in this open air demonstration. The grounds where we assembled are beautifully located, romantic in scenery and appearance, and these were made the scene of a glorious reunion and an intellectual as well as physical feast.

Mrs. Harriet M. Closs, of Webster City, Iowa, gave the address, her subject being "The Rights of Women."

Mrs. Closs has a national reputation as a liberal speaker and writer and she handled her subject in a masterful manner. The address was supplemented by recitations by Oressa Moffitt, Ona Keating and Myra Pepper Weller, from Mitchell, S. D.

The ladies provided a bountiful dinner and more than one hundred people enjoyed it. Music was furnished by the Vernouff sisters and by an Edison graphophone. Plenty of ice water and lemonade quenched our thirst and many enjoyed the boating on the lake and the swings in the grove.

The time has come when it is respectable to attend a meeting of Freethinking people. The world no longer burns people at the stake for their opinions, and it is to be hoped that tolerance and charity will so increase that shafts of calumny will never be hurled at those who dare to differ from creeds and custom.

Humanity needs more brave minds who will, as Lowell says, "Dare to be in the right with two or three."

OBJECTS:

The Complete Separation of Church and State.

BY WHICH WE DEMAND

1. The Taxation of Church Property.
2. The abrogation of all laws favoring the observance of Sunday as a holy-day.
3. The cessation of appropriating public funds for sectarian purposes—for chaplains in our army, navy, legislatures, and other State institutions.
4. The abrogation of the judicial oath in the courts and in inaugural ceremonies, and all other legal recognition of religion, such as religious festivals, and days of thanksgiving and prayer.
5. That no diplomatic relations be established with the head or official authority of any church or religion, nor that the God or Savior of any religion be incorporated into the Constitution, nor other violation be made of Article I of the Amendments to the Constitution.
6. The abrogation of all laws, whatsoever, granting class privileges.
7. The freedom of speech and press.

Our fee returned if we fail. Any one sending sketch and description of any invention will promptly receive our opinion free concerning the patentability of same. "How to Obtain a Patent" sent upon request. Patents secured through us advertised for sale at our expense.

Patents taken out through us receive special notice, without charge, in THE PATENT RECORD, an illustrated and widely circulated journal, consulted by Manufacturers and Investors. Send for sample copy FREE. Address,

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